

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the remarks that follow. As a preliminary matter, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for speaking with Applicants' counsel, Todd A. Noah and Nathan P. Koenig, on March 17, 2011. During the telephonic interview, Applicant's counsel discussed that the cited reference, Kensey et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,061,274, fails to disclose an occlusion member releasably attached to a specific position on the elongate member. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 9 to further clarify this distinction. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

I. Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected pending Claims 1, 3, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as purportedly being anticipated by Kensey et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,061,274 ("Kensey"). The Examiner suggests that Kensey discloses an occlusive member releasably coupled to the elongate member by an attachment. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that Kensey fails to disclose an occlusion member attached to a specific position on the elongate member. In view of the amendments to claims 1 and 9, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 9, as well as dependent Claims 3 and 11, are not anticipated by Kensey and requests that the Examiner withdraw the §102 rejection.

II. Rejoinder of Claims 5 and 7

As discussed in the previous responses, Applicant continues to request that method claims 5 and 7 be rejoined when claim 1 is found patentable, as they have been amended to share all the structural limitations of product claim 1.

III. Conclusion

Applicant submits that entry of the previous amendments and the current amendments place the case in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the

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rejection of the claims be withdrawn, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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